

REMARKS

Claims 13, 17 and 27 are currently pending, of which Claims 13 and 17 have been amended. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the specification, for example in the original claims. No new matter is added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 13, 17 and 27 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamura et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,808,113. In order to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each element of the claim. By the above-amendment, Applicant limited materials contained in a sheet or film used to protect a medical or experimental material to comprising "at least one member selected from the group consisting of keratins, silk fibroins and their derivatives". In contrast, Okamura et al. merely discloses that collagens could be used to coat medical articles. Okamura et al. is silent about keratins, silk fibroins and their derivatives. Thus, Okamura et al. cannot anticipate the presently pending claims.

Further, Okamura et al. does not even suggest that keratins, silk fibroins and their derivatives could protect a medical or experimental material from the adverse effects of at least one type of radiation selected from the group consisting of x-rays, gamma rays and electron beams. In view of the foregoing, the claimed invention should be considered patentable over Okamura et al. and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 8-16-2007

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